Additional Central Assistance to meet the year's demand. Planning Commission have agreed to provide Rs. 2100 lakh as Central Assistance for the scheme in the Annual Plan 1998-99.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Rural population below poverty line in Gujarat

609. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is having a good percentage of rural population living below the poverty line in comparison to other States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programmes being undertaken or proposed to be undertaken to reduce the percentage of poverty in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As per the latest available estimates, the percentage of people living below the poverty line in the rural areas of Gujarat is 22.18 in 1993-94 as against 37.27 for the country as a whole. Among the 32 States and Union Territories in the country, the rural poverty ratio of only six States and Union Territories is less than in Gujarat. These are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Punjab, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu and Delhi. The rural poverty ratio in the States and Union Territories are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are; (i) acceralation of economic growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc., and (iii) direct programmes and asset building for the poor. The main among these programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Griha Kalyan Yojana, Urban Basic Services for the poor and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme.

Statement

Poverty Ratios in Rural Areas—1993-94

S. No.	States/UT's	%age of Persons
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.01
3.	Assam	45.01
4.	Bihar	58.21
5.	Goa	5.34
6.	Gujarat	22.18
7.	Haryana	28.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30.34
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.34
10.	Karnataka	29.88
11.	Kerala	25.76
12.	Madhya Pradesh	40.64
13.	Maharashtra	37.93
14.	Manipur	45.01
15.	Meghalaya	45.01
16.	Mizoram	45.01
17.	Nagaland	45.01
18.	Orissa	49.72
19.	Punjab	11.95
20.	Rajasthan	26.46
21.	Sikkim	45.01
22.	Tamil Nadu	32.48
23.	Tripura	45.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	42.28
25.	West Bengal	40.80
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	32.48
27.	Chandigarh	11.35
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	51.95
29.	Daman & Diu	5.34
30.	Delhi	1.90
31.	Lakshadweep	25.76
32.	Pondicherry	32.48
	ALL INDIA	37.27

NOTE:

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for

Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.

3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.

5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both Rural and Urban poverty of Chandigarh.

6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir.

Development of backward regions

610. *SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA*: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiatives to ensure speedy development of the identified backward regions in the country with the provision of additional resources to cover the backlog of development during the current Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the strategy worked out and the areas identified for removal of regional imbalances and allocation of funds during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward per se. However, Central Government supplements the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated for Special Area Programme such as Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan, North-Eastern Council, Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme.

गुजरात को वित्तीय सहायता

611. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात के मुख्य मंत्री ने कच्छ में चक्रवात से हुए नुकसान को पूरा करने के लिए अतिरिक्त वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार को एक विस्तृत प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया है;

(ख) क्या योजना आयोग ने 600 करोड़ रुपये की अतिरिक्त राशि स्वीकृत की है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त सहायता राशि जारी कर दी गई है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त प्रस्ताव की वर्तमान वास्तविक स्थिति क्या है और इसे अस्वीकृति करने के क्या कारण है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) से (घ) गुजरात के मुख्य मंत्री ने जून 1998 में कच्छ और अन्य जिलों में आए चक्रवात के परिणामस्वरूप, राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत कोष (एन० एफ० सी० आर०) में 610.65 करोड़ रु० की सहायता के लिए एक ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत किया था। नुकसान का जायजा लेने और अपेक्षित सहायता की मात्रा का निर्धारण करने के लिए एक अंतर मंत्रालीय केन्द्रीय दल ने प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का दौरा किया। केन्द्रीय दल की रिपोर्ट पर अंतर-मंत्रालीय दल (आई० एम० जी०) की बैठक में विचार किया गया है। राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत कोष (एन० एफ० सी० आर०) द्वारा दी जाने वाली सहायता की मात्रा, यदि कोई हो, को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए केन्द्रीय दल